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Help the Library Bridge the Funding Gap

UB's Charles B. Sears Law Library is facing a dilemma. At a time when the information sciences are in the midst of a technological revolution, library funding is shrinking. Simply keeping the print collection current is expensive. Adding on-line services and other electronic resources makes stretching a shrinking budget virtually impossible.

To fill the gap between expanding needs and declining funding, Michael Mohun '80, chair of the UB Law Library Fund Drive, a part of the Annual Fund Drive, is calling on alumni, local attorneys and friends of the Law School to join him in enhancing the library's excellence.

A member of the law firm of Brown and Mohun in Depew, N.Y., Mohun says, "The library is the heart and soul of the Law School and we have to help keep it that way."

Asked what alumni could do to help the library, Mohun responds, "The simple answer is to give money... We have a tremendous resource here in the UB law library."

According to UB law library

director Ellen Gibson '80, a fundamental change is occurring in the way that information is being delivered.

"We have to support both the new electronic resources and the print collections. We can't do both adequately with the amount of money the state is providing."

The cost of new technologies, such as Internet access and CD-ROM facilities, can be staggering. Licensing alone costs \$75,000 a year for remote on-line data base services. As more services are required, costs will climb even higher.

"The virtual library is not here. We're caught in the middle between

print and electronic media. We try to provide the best service possible, but we're caught in this awkward time, which may take a long time to shake out. That's the tough spot all libraries are in, and that the UB law library is certainly in," says Gibson.

Mohun is now recruiting volunteers to raise funds for three library priorities: expanded information resources, additional electronic classrooms and enhanced staffing. Fund-raising plans include a golf tournament involving area law firms with proceeds going to the library fund. To lend a hand and get involved, please contact Mohun at his office. ■



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Western New York Inc. has donated an oil painting, valued at \$30,000, to the University. It is now on display in the Law Library. "Summertime," by former art professor Walter Prochownik, is a nine-panel, 8' by 38' mural.



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